

United States Government

Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: March 13, 2001

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS, (DOE/EIS-0246/SA-14)

TO: Joe DeHerrera - KEWN-4
Project Manager

Proposed Action: Ladd Marsh WMA Additions, Conley Lake Upland Habitat Restoration

Project No.: 1999-056-011

Budget No.: 00002964

Wildlife Management Techniques of Actions Addressed Under this Supplement Analysis (See App A of the Wildlife Mitigation Program EIS):

1.0 Fee-Title Acquisition, 2.0 Plant Propagation Techniques (Transplanting, Seeding, Irrigation, Fertilization), 5.2 Culverts, 6.0 Fire Management Techniques (Prompt Fire Suppression and Natural Fire Management), 7.0 Vegetation Management: Enhancement and Control (Herbicides, Mechanical Removal, Biological Control, Hand Pulling, Prescribed Burn, Water Level Manipulation), 8.2 Control of Predators and Nuisance Animals,

9.1 Integration of Wildlife Habitat and Crop Production, 9.2 Provision of Educational and Recreational Opportunities, 10.1 Land Use Restrictions, 10.3 Road Maintenance.

Location: Union County, Oregon, near LaGrande

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA), and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)

Description of the Proposed Action: The overall goal of this project is to enhance and maintain lands near the Ladd Marsh Wildlife Management Area (WMA) for the benefit of wildlife. The WMA is in the Grande Ronde River valley. This project involves upland habitat restoration around a seasonal lake. The Conley Lake property consists of a 120-acre lake and associated wetland and 40 acres of upland which has been farmland. It is an extremely important habitat area for wetland birds. The purpose of this project is to improve upland habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, and other wildlife.

Conley Lake is part of the Ladd Marsh Wildlife Area managed by ODFW. It is a semi-permanent playa approximately 125 acres in size at high water. The lake has no formal inlet. The bulk of the lake's water comes from surface run-off and ground water and is slightly alkaline. Conley Lake is an important staging area for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds. It also provides nesting habitat for a variety of ducks and Canada geese. ODFW manages approximately 40 acres of upland adjacent to the lake. These uplands, presently in agriculture, will be restored to permanent cover with native grasses and shrubs. Prior landowners made attempts to drain and farm the area. During some years, the lake was pumped to allow farming and haying. Ridges are still evident where landowners deep-plowed in attempt to increase drainage to farmed fields. The uplands are presently planted in small grains and mint. Farming occurs within a few feet of the wetlands.

ODFW owns the site and will conduct restoration. Restoration will include preparation and planting of the uplands to native species. Herbicides will be used to control undesirable species until native species become established. The site will be managed specifically for wildlife. ODFW will provide permanent protection and enhancement of the site.

Analysis: The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife completed a compliance checklist for the property that meets the standards and guidelines for the Wildlife Mitigation Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision.

A list was received on April 17, 2000 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service identifying species listed as endangered, threatened, proposed and/or candidate species which may be present in the area of the proposal. We have submitted a biological assessment on the habitat enhancement activities associated with this project to USFWS and NMFS. We determined, based on the BA, that this project and the activities associated with implementation of the habitat enhancement will have no effect on the species listed.

The Archaeological and Historical Services of Eastern Washington University conducted a site file and literature search and a cultural resource survey for historic and archaeological sites on the property. Their report, dated September 15, 2000, is in the file. Also in the file is the State's concurrence of the non-eligibility of a site identified by the survey.

On May 7, 1998 The Nature Conservancy completed a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment and concluded that the site did not reveal any evidence of environmental hazards. On April 26, 2000, a site reconnaissance was conducted to verify findings of the earlier site assessment and to obtain information about the likelihood of identifying recognized environmental conditions. Fred Walasavage, Environmental Specialist for Bonneville Power Administration concluded that his reconnaissance did not reveal any environmental factors that would pose a significant liability for remedial action or cleanup under the Comprehensive Recovery, Compensation and Liability Act.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Sections 11.2D.1, 11.3A, and 11.3D of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds; 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Wildlife Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-2965) and ROD, and 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Nancy Weintraub
Nancy Weintraub
KEC Project Lead
Environment, Fish and Wildlife Group

CONCUR: /s/ Thomas C. McKinney DATE: 03/13/01
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

Attachment
Compliance Checklist - Ladd Marsh WMA Additions, Conley Lake Property